

**Ferry Conservation District**  
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### **Water Quality Technician**

Salary: DOQ; Closing: The application process is open until the position is filled.

### **Qualifications:**

A Bachelors degree in an environmental field with course work related to hydrology, aquatic ecosystems, water quality and/or biology.

One year of experience monitoring and restoring northwest lake, stream, or wetland ecosystems is preferred. Familiarity with water quality monitoring equipment is a plus.

### **To apply for this position:**

Applicants must provide a cover letter, a completed application form available from the conservation district office, a resume, and three professional references.

### **Job Description**

#### **Introduction:**

The successful applicant will serve as a Conservation District Water Quality Technician (WQ Tech) located in the Ferry Conservation District office.

The person hired for this position is directly responsible to the District Manager.

Permanence of the job is dependent upon continued grant funding.

The District seeks candidates familiar with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field office Technical Guide, and local County, State, and Federal regulations.

#### **Duties:**

#### **Water Quality**

The WQ Tech will manage and implement water quality and other monitoring projects.

The candidate will perform a number of duties including but not limited to: water quality monitoring; habitat, vegetation and macroinvertebrate monitoring; and reporting findings to granting agencies. As the water quality program technician, the employee will ensure that all the requirements of the grants are met. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Develop Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) to meet Washington Dept. of Ecology (DOE) standards, grant goals, and objectives.
- Schedule monitoring activities and field assessments to meet requirements of QAPPs.
- Collect water quality data using field meters.
- Collect water samples for laboratory analysis.
- Follow standard procedures to ensure data quality.
- Collect vegetation and habitat data using standard field equipment and procedures.
- Maintain and calibrate equipment, including troubleshooting equipment problems.
- Coordinate with landowners of privately owned monitoring sites.

- Coordinate with laboratories to ensure samples are processed within holding times and billings are accurate.
- Ensure completeness and accuracy of data collection.
- Manage data in hard copy and electronic formats.
- Analyze and report data to meet the requirements of the QAPPs, including analysis data in relation to state water quality standards and analysis of QC data.
- Submit data to DOE for their Environmental Information Management system.
- Communicate data to a wide range of audiences via FCD's newsletter and at fairs and festivals, and to individual landowners and landowner groups.
- Utilize data to develop and prioritize restoration/BMP projects.

### **Habitat Restoration**

The WQ Tech will work with other FCD staff members on riparian and stream bank restoration projects with public and private landowners in watersheds for which we have funding. The successful candidate will perform a variety of duties including but not limited to: applying for and managing grants; planning, permitting, implementing and monitoring stream and wetland restoration projects; coordinating intern tasks; writing reports on completed projects; and attending watershed meetings.

As grant manager, the WQ Tech will ensure that all grant requirements are met.

Various requirements are summarized below:

- Assemble a list of potential project sites to be implemented, as funding is available.
- Obtain permits for restoration activities in compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Prepare planting and fencing plans with technical and supervisory assistance in accordance with NRCS technical standards.
- Work with engineers to develop project designs.
- Develop project budgets.
- Write and submit applications to funding sources such as USFWS or DOE for project implementation.
- Plan and implement projects, depending on size and available funding.
- Identify and coordinate volunteers or contractors to implement projects and oversee project implementation.
- Coordinate the maintenance of restoration project sites as necessary to ensure survival of plants and integrity of in-stream structures.
- Evaluate project success using photo documentation and vegetation monitoring.
- Prepare quarterly and project completion reports as required by state, federal or local grants.
- Conduct educational presentations and other public outreach work regarding the benefits and implementation of stream and wetland restoration.
- Provide opportunities and tasks for Environmental Education Intern.
- Write articles for quarterly newsletter on restoration issues.
- Attend relevant trainings and workshop to further knowledge of ecosystem processes, ecology and restoration.
- Some weekend and evening work will be required at times.
- Other duties as assigned.

**Desired Skills and Knowledge:**

- A valid driver's license, dependable transportation and vehicle liability insurance is required.
- Knowledge of natural resource issues such as stream, wetland and riparian ecology, native plants, water quality and soils.
- Written and oral communication skills to address public and technical groups and to prepare summary reports.
- Ability to work and communicate with individuals in an effective manner that will result in completed projects that meet our goals.
- Ability to use computers to write reports, keep track of work progress, prepare technical drawings, prepare high quality maps using GIS software, and record field data.
- Ability to organize and plan own schedule of activities, and to set priorities related to work goals set by the FCD Board and District Manager.
- Ability to maintain accurate records regarding time-keeping and authorized expenses.
- Ability to operate a motor vehicle on both public and private roads during daylight and occasionally after dark.
- Ability to work in all types of terrain on foot, crossing fences and operation of hand and power tools.

Physical effort is occasionally required; occasionally lifting weights up to 50 lbs. Work conditions involve all types of topography, weather, or related outdoor features and travel.

- Familiar with federal cultural resource issues in relation to construction and implementation of practices.
- Ability to work well with technically diverse project teams.
- Ability to communicate effectively in a team setting.
- Self-motivation and an ability to work independently.

**Additional desirable skills:**

- Knowledge of the Ferry County area.
- Understanding of land use issues, especially related to natural resources and agriculture.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate restoration projects in partnership with government, non-profit and/or tribal entities.
- Understanding of planting requirements, particularly non-native plant removal and establishment of native species.
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of local county, state, and federal regulations.
- Demonstrated experience obtaining permits necessary for restoration activities.
- Demonstrated experience in successful grant writing.
- Farm planning or natural resource planning experience.

Ferry Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer, and we offer our services to all without discrimination.